

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 13, 2008, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on November 13, 2008. Applicants have attached a Petition for a One Month Extension of Time, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136, extending the statutory period until December 13, 2008. Applicants respectfully request entry and consideration of the above noted amendments and the following remarks in response to the Office Action.

CLAIM REJECTIONS:

Claims 2, 4-5 and 26-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph and second paragraph. Applicants have amended claim 31 to further clarify the ASTM testing method and further submit that the measurement of melt flow index is well known to one skilled in the art. Further, Applicants have amended the specification to include the subject matter for claim 27 and submit that such subject matter is supported by the originally filed claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 2, 4 and 28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and second paragraph. Applicants have corrected such claims and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 2, 4 and 26-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,188,432 (*Holden*). *Holden* teaches a polystyrene graft copolymer component, a polyolefin component and a block copolymer component. The polymer blends were prepared by dry-blending the ingredients. See, column 9, lines 58-65.

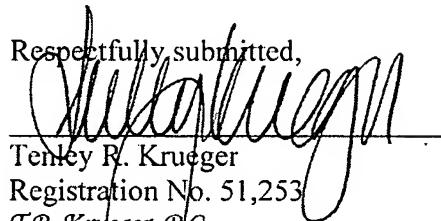
Holden does not teach, show or suggest melt blending a polymer having a MFI of from 20 to 40 with High Impact Polystyrene, as recited by the pending claims. The Office Action states that the “HIPS and the second polymer are melt blended with other components” and provides support at column 6, lines 12-19. First, the pending claims require that the HIPS and the polymer are melt blended together. The Examiner’s assertion that the HIPS and second polymer are melt blended with other components does not meet this requirement. Second, Applicants disagree that *Holden* teaches melt

blending the HIPS with any other components. Rather, *Holden* teaches dry-blending the HIPS with other polymers. In addition, there is no discussion in column 6, lines 12-19 of blending at all. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over *Holden* in view of U.S. Pat. No. 65,541,285 (*Agarwal*) and U.S. Pat. No. 6,713,141 (*Kaulbach*). The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the Office Action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this Office Action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

In conclusion, Applicants submit that the references cited in the Office Action, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the claimed features. Having addressed all issues set out in the Office Action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request the same.

Respectfully submitted,


Tenley R. Krueger
Registration No. 51,253
T.R. Krueger, P.C.
P.O. Box 16356
Sugar Land, Texas 77496
Telephone: 281-778-8934
Facsimile: 281-778-8937
Attorney for Applicant(s)